

Ms. Kathleen Fralic

Engagement Lead

Planning & Development, HRM

Regionalplan@halifax.ca

August 21, 2020

Re: Protecting Sandy Lake – Sackville River in the Regional Plan

Dear Ms. Fralic,

I write today to bring attention to an important ecological area requiring protection in the context of the Regional Plan review and the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGNP).

Canadian Association of Retired Persons NS., is one of 27 member groups comprising the Sandy-Lake – Sackville River Regional Park (SL-SRRP) Coalition. We fully support the efforts of SL-SRRP to ensure protection for the ecological unit which is the Sandy Lake-Sackville River watershed, including its submission to the RP+10 review (<https://www.sandylakecoalition.ca/rpsubmission>).

We support the Sandy Lake – Sackville River Regional Park Coalition in its call to expand the Regional Park by additional 1,800 acres. We also support the Coalition's request for HRM to research a new Regional Park boundary, based on science, for what a full, functioning park should be.

More and more, cities (and health authorities) are coming to understand the extensive health benefits of providing people with access to nature. HRM is talking about the [benefits of nature](#), but here's a chance for the city to secure this piece of "green" health infrastructure. Free, easy access to nature can prevent and treat mental and physical health challenges, and make communities more attractive to live in.

We understand an application for Secondary Planning for lands immediately west of Sandy Lake is imminent by at least one developer. This creates a new urgency for us to find solutions that protect the Sandy Lake-Sackville River watershed.

We ask that:

The SL-SRRP be expanded by 1,800 acres (refer to Map 1 in the SL-SRRP submission). Research the SL-SRRP boundary in the RP+10 process so that new boundaries based on science are established to encompass all remaining essential watershed to be protected and managed as a regional park for all time. That would mean finding "win-win" solutions that serve both the community and present landowners needs.

- *the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) be included in its entirety in the RP+10.*
- *All requests in Sections A, B and C of the SL-SRRP Coalition submission be addressed and implemented within the RP+10 review.*

We are thankful HRM has shown leadership with the recent passing of HalifACT and for the HGNP Map 5 amendment to the Regional Plan's conservation design development agreement.

We look to the RP+10 to expand the existing boundary to protect and enhance the existing watershed for all time.

Sincerely,

James Boyer

Co-Chair Environment Committee

CARP NS.



CARP Nova Scotia is non-partisan, non-profit organization committed to a 'New Vision of Aging for Nova Scotia' promoting social change that will bring financial security, equitable access to health care, concern for our environment and freedom from discrimination. Our mandate is to promote and protect the interests, rights and quality of life for Canadians as we age. We have almost 10.000 members in Nova Scotia age forty-five years and over.